- According greater focus to the emerging markets, particularly of China, North East Asia and South East Asia;
- Participation in Trade Fairs and Exhibitions;
- Use of internet and web marketing; and
- Re-inforced hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite media personnel, tour operators on familiarization tours to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Merger of Jet and Kingfisher

707. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jet Airways and Kingfisher are going for a merger;

(b) whether there would be any impact on Air India's market if such merger takes place; and

(c) if so, what would the action plan of Air India to address such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No such proposal has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Flights from Dabolim airport

708. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights operating from Dabolim Airport in Goa to foreign countries, sector-wise and country-wise;

(b) whether Air India or other airlines propose to operate any new flight from Goa to any of the foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the route of these flights and by which date these flights are going to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Presently, Sri Lankan Airlines, Condor Airlines and Transaero Airlines provide 3, 2 and 5 services a week from Colombo, Frankfurt and Moscow/St Petersburg to Goa respectively. Air India has 5 and 3 services a week on the Bangalore - Goa - Dubai and Chennai - Goa - Kuwait sectors respectively. Apart from these, any authorised carrier can provide connectivity to tourists by international charter flights to/from Goa.

(b) and (c) Goa is available as a point of call to the designated airline(s) of 14 countries apart from the Indian carriers operating to international destinations. However, actual operation by airlines is guided by their commercial judgment.